



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

www.ellington-ct.gov

(860) 870-3120

TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE

(860) 870-3122

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JUNE 13, 2012

PRESENT: Chairman Sean Kelly, Vice Chairman Chris Todd, David Hurley, Stanislav Moline

ABSENT: Charles McCleary and Alternates Stefanie Cunningham and Gilbert Gamboa

STAFF

PRESENT: Lisa Houlihan, Assistant Town Planner and Kristin Michaud, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

III. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

By consensus a report regarding the Tax Abatement Policy was added to the agenda.

1. Report: Tax Abatement

Discussion ensued. By consensus the commission tabled this matter until the next meeting.

2. Report: Agricultural Initiatives

At the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting on May 21, 2012, the BOS agreed to move forward with considering a tax exemption program for farm buildings. It is expected that a formal motion will be taken on this matter at the next BOS meeting on June 18, 2012.

Commissioner Hurley suggested that farms be given a larger advertisement in the business directory for no additional consideration. He also reviewed a crop sharing program he is involved in and noted that the Rothe Farm organizes a similar program. These programs provide individual interest in farm crops and encourage farmers to diversify. He suggested that the EDC help advertise these programs and spoke in favor of an agricultural bulletin board.

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

3. Report: Business Surveys and Site Visits

Chairman Kelly reported on the business visit at Country Pure Foods in May. Representative Christopher Davis, Ms. Houlihan, Kim Wilford (Plant Manager), Gary Benton (Plant Controller) and Karen Richard (Human Resources Manager) attended. He reviewed the services they provide and described the facilities and operations. They were happy about the business visit and encouraged the EDC to check in with them periodically. Ms. Houlihan noted the eloquently written email that Chairman Kelly sent to Country Pure thanking them.

Ms. Houlihan noted scheduling constraints during summer months and asked to suspend business visits until September. By consensus the Commission agreed with Ms. Houlihan. Ms.

Ms. Houlihan stated that she will not be in attendance next month. Commissioners reviewed their individual schedules and discussion ensued.

MOVED TODD, SECONDED HURLEY AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO CANCEL THE JULY MEETING DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICTS.

Chairman Kelly recognized a member in the audience that recently arrived. Carl Slicer, a local business owner, stated that he is in attendance to observe the meeting and has recently visited other economic development forums to observe their initiatives. He is happy to see that Ellington understands the importance of an Economic Development Commission. Discussion ensued.

4. Report: Business Directory/Virtual Welcome Wagon
Ms. Houlihan noted that the \$500 budget request for assistance with the business directory was approved. The funds will be offered to an Ellington High School junior or senior to assist with scrubbing the Town's business database, seek permission to list businesses in the directory and solicit advertisements; noting that the directory needs to be self funding. Ms. Houlihan noted scholarship procedures and suggested that an internship format be offered. She has contacted the school and will work with them to solicit students with qualifications to assist with this task. It is expected to have the intern on board in early September.

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

5. Report: Tax Incentive Programs: Nothing to report, at this time.
6. Report: Current Economic Activity: Nothing to report, at this time.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the May 9, 2012, regular meeting minutes.

MOVED TODD, SECONDED HURLEY AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MAY 9, 2012, MEETING MINUTES, AS WRITTEN.

2. Correspondence:
The Commission reviewed the 56th Annual NEDA Conference postcard. This year it is being hosted in Hartford in October. Interested commissioners should visit the cited website. Grants may be available through CEDAS or MetroHartford Alliance to pay for attendance.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED HURLEY, SECONDED TODD AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:


Lisa M. Houlihan
Acting Recording Secretary